THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) Yes, Sir. A view has been expressed regarding the likely increase in the number of addict if not steps were taken.

(b) A variety of measures are being taken by the Government to deal with the problem of drug abuse. This includes on the one hand stricter vigilance and enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and simultaneously taking up awareness building programmes, counselling and guidance, de- addiction treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addtics into the society. Voluntary organisations are being involved in providing services mentioned above and in creating awareness amongst various segments of society.

Requirements of PIG iron for foundry industry of West Bengal

*156. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI M. A. BABY.

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foundry industry of West Bengal had recently appealed to the Iron and Steel Controller to allow them to obtain their required pig iron from any source.

(b) if so, whether they have been granted necessary permits in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The members of the Indian Foundry Association, Calcutta, have been permitted to draw their requirements through the Association in case of direct dispatches.

(c) Does not arise.

Coloured stainless steel

*157. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Salem Steel Plant had recently developed coloured stainless steel and have carried out the preliminary tests at the Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are its likely effects on the health of the users;

(d) whether it would be cheaper or costlier than the traditional stainless steel; and

(e) by when it is likely to be marketed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The process for colouring stainless steel on laboratory scale has been developed by Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and not Salem. No tests were conducted at Durgapur Steel Plant.

(c) It is not expected to have any adverse effect on the health of the people using it.

(d) The cost of coloured stainless steel would be higher than that of traditional stainless steel as additional cost would be incurred for colouring the surface of stainless steel material.

(e) Coloured stainless steel in certain forms and shapes is being marketed in a very limited way.

Strike by workmen of C.P.W.D. and P.W.D. Delhi Administration

*158. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50,000 workmen of Central Public Works